REMARKS

Applicants' Representative gratefully appreciates the interview(s) conducted with the Examiner since the issuance of the most recent Office Action mailed June 16, 2004. As the Examiner will recall, Applicants filed an RCE together with additional claims in order to further prosecution in the present application. In order to reduce issues, Applicants attempted to present claims that would be favorably received by the Examiner. These new claims were narrower in scope than the claims present in the parent application and the Examiner did not previously consider them. See claims 35 and 36. However, claims 35 and 36 were not discussed or addressed in the first action Final Office Action mailed June 16, 2004.

Accordingly, Applicants' Representative contacted the Examiner and requested that the Examiner withdraw and reissue the Office Action as a non-final Office Action. Preferably, the Examiner will also comment on the patentability of new claims 35 and 36. It is further the understanding of the undersigned that the reissuance of the office action will restart the period for response and remove the finality of the Office Action. The Examiner indicated that he would grant Applicants' request in this regard.

Application No. 09/695,293

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc. S. Weiner (Reg. No. 32,181) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

2786-0140P MSW/sh

. . .